

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP99/08289 filed October 30, 1999**

**--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates, in general, to rinse agents for machine dishwashing containing alkoxyated carboxylic acid esters, particularly those obtained by reaction of carboxylic acid esters and alkylene oxides in the presence of calcined hydrotalcites, and to methods of using the alkoxyated carboxylic acid esters for the production of such rinse agents.--

At page 3, line 25 thereof, please insert the following new section heading:

**--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--**

At page 15, between lines 1 and 2, please add the following new paragraph:

--What is claimed is:--.

On a separate, new page 18, following page 17, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure:

**--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Rinse agents for machine dishwashing which contain alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester(s), and other optional additives, are described. Methods of rinsing tableware surfaces using the described rinsing agents during machine washing are also described.--

**In the Claims:**

Please add new claims 14-36, as follows:

--14. (New) A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing a rinse agent comprising an alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I):

